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EDWARD EDWARDS  
10th District, California

COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CIVIL AND  
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

1020823-1166

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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R

February 23, 1982

The Honorable Alexander Haig, Jr.  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

AS  
ACTION  
[Stamp]

Dear Secretary Haig:

I am writing to express my concern for Rodolpho Juan Begnardi who has been imprisoned by the Argentine government since 1975, when he was apparently arrested because of his trade union activities. At this time, Sr. Begnardi is being held without charges or trial in Unidad Penitenciaria No. 9 LaPlata, "at the disposal of the National Executive Power" under state of seige regulations.

Senora Begnardi, arrested at the same time, was released last September and was allowed to come to the United States with her son. Sr. Begnardi has applied for the Right of "Option" to be exiled rather than remain in prison. However, his application has been continually turned down.

This situation distresses me a great deal, since Sr. Begnardi has not committed any crime, but was arrested for legitimate trade union activities. His continued detention causes some concern about the sincerity of the recent pledges of respect for human rights by the Argentine government, including their signing of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

I urge the State Department to investigate this matter and try and convince the government of Argentina to release Sr. Begnardi and allow him to rejoin his family in the United States. I appreciate any help that you are able to give in this matter and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

*Don Edwards*

Member of Congress

DE: mck ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

2 1 11 03

STATE